



Safety Alert 06-06

AWOL Machines

(Alcohol WithOut Liquid)

12 April 2006

ATTENTION Commanders and Leaders:

A disturbing trend is emerging in the bar scene that you must be aware of:

The AWOL (Alcohol WithOut Liquid) machine. The device is used to vaporize alcohol, where it is then inhaled, inducing a state of euphoria.

The sales tactics being employed by manufacturers to entice persons to purchase their device emphasizes that alcohol intoxication obtained using their machine does not produce a hangover and it may even be difficult to detect through ordinary sobriety testing. It is being sold over the internet and could be used at private parties as well as in commercial establishments.

There is pending legislation, House Bill 1179, in the Missouri 93rd General Assembly that states, in part: "No person shall possess or use an alcoholic beverage vaporizer." There is similar legislation in 12 other states. Medical reports are not yet clear as to what the long term health affects may be; further studies are warranted.

Commanders and Leaders must be aware of this potential threat. Incidents in the local area have not yet been reported. Information received from various sources indicate this device is used in overseas locations. It would be reasonable to expect to see it become popular in the US as well.

Leaders must remain ever vigilant to the activities of their personnel, on and off duty. With the arrival of Spring and Summer, many activities revolve around alcohol consumption. Keep your personnel safe from this very real threat.

Because it is unlawful to operate a motor vehicle while under the influence of alcohol, this activity is, MANSCEM SAFETY OFFICE